THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) and (b) The Domestic Budgetary support provided by the Planning Commission for Central Department of Tourism during Eighth Five Year Plan was Rs. 440 crores. For the Ninth Five Year Plan, the Planning Commission has approved a Domestic Budgetary support of Rs. 560 crores at 1996-97 prices. The funds provided to Central Department of Tourism are not allocated Statewise. Financial Assistance to State Governments from these funds are provided on the basis of specific proposals received and the availability of funds.

(c) to (g) The State Tourism Ministers Conference was held in Delhi on 27th June to discuss the New National Tourism Policy - 1997, alongwith other issues like Role of the State Governments in Infrastructure Development, Rationalisation of tax structure. Implementation of Centrally Assisted projects. Guidelines for Eco-tourism etc. were discussed. The National Tourism Policy was generally accepted and approved by the State Government Tourism Ministers present. The Draft Policy was also circulated to Industry Associations and a Workshop on the same was also held on 26th June, 1997. The suggestions received from various agencies have been incorporated in the Draft Policy.

(h) to (j) A suggestion for inclusion of Tourism in the Concurrent List was discussed in the State Tourism Ministers Conference to include Tourism in the Concurrent List of the Constitution. Most of the State Governments generally agreed to the proposal but wanted more time to consider and from their formal views on the subject. A few of the State Governments expressed their reservations on this subject.

Foreign Exchange Earnings by I.T.D.C.

*171. SHRI K.S. RAYUDU :
DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether foreign exchange from Tourism has increased during last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; year-wise;

(c) whether there is now any decrease in foreign exchange earnings;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to boost foreign exchange earning by I.T.D.C.?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) to (d) There has been a consistent increase in foreign exchange earnings from tourism during last three years. This upward trend continued during the first three months of current financial year also. The details are as given below :

Year	Foreign Exchange Earnings			
	Rs. crores	% Change	US $ Million	% Change
1994-95	7365.61	5.7	2347.96	5.7
1995-96	9185.88	24.7	2928.27	24.7
1996-97	10417.57	13.4	3063.97	4.6
1997-98 (April-June)	1977.75	8.2	557.11	3.6

(e) The steps taken to increase foreign exchange earnings by ITDC includes participation in International Travel Marts, Hosting of Familiarization Tours of travel agents/writers etc., extending brochure support to foreign tour operators, featuring on the Amadeus Computerised Reservation System and publicity through Internet and holding Food festivals.

[Translation]

Decline in Pass Percentage

*172. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the pass percentage of Kendriya Vidyalayas is declining slowly and the Ministry is concerned about it;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has declared the current academic session as "Zero failure year" on the directive of his Ministry; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Ministry and Sangathan to achieve full success in the current session?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) No, Sir. The pass percentage of Class X and Class XII of Kendriya Vidyalayas has been consistently higher than the average pass percentage of the Central Board of Secondary Education. Further, the Class X and Class XII results of Kendriya Vidyalayas in 1997 are considerably better than those in 1996.

(c) Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has set for itself a target of "Zero Failure for 1997-98".

(d) The Sangathan has planned to achieve this target through various measures including intensive monitoring of academic activities, recruitment and appointment of teachers, systematic in-service training of teachers and Principals and encouragement of Co-curricular activities.